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Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—" May I know what the income derived is from cycle-tax in the city? "

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I am not sure. Probably it will be Rs. 75,000."

Alleged misconduct of Mr. Adisheshayya, ex-Special Officer, Bezwada Municipality.

* 288 *Q.*—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether allegations of grave misconduct have been made to the Government against Mr. B. Adiseshayya, ex-Special Officer, Bezwada Municipality, by Mr. C. K. Reddi, M.L.C.; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he postponed the election of the Chairman of the Bezwada Municipality in contravention of the orders passed by the Government?

A.—(*a*) Certain allegations were made against Mr. Adiseshayya by Mr. Reddi.

(*b*) The Special Officer adjourned the election on the ground that there was no valid notice to the councillors in respect of the election. The Government approved his action.

Amount of toll compensation paid to the District Boards of Coimbatore and Salem as the second instalment for 1935–36.

* 289 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the actual income from tolls in the Coimbatore and Salem districts for the three years ending 1930–31 is; and

(*b*) what the amount authorized for payment in the second instalment for 1935–36 to the District Boards of Coimbatore and Salem under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, is?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A statement[a] is laid on the table.

Delay in the reconstitution of village panchayats under the Local Boards (Amendment) Act.

* 290 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many elections to the village panchayats in each district after the introduction of the new Local Boards Act have not yet taken place;

(*b*) how many times each panchayat was extended without conducting the elections;

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 225–226 infra.

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(c) how many special officers are still continuing on account of the same;

(d) what are the reasons for such continuance; and

(e) what steps the Government have taken to put a stop to such a state of affairs?

A.—(a) A statement [a] giving the information is placed on the table.

(b) *to* (e) It is presumed that the question refers to panchayats which were abolished and constituted afresh, owing to the failure of the Special Officers concerned to hold elections within the time prescribed in sub-section (2) of section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, on account either of indifference on their part or on that of the villagers or on account of factions amongst the latter. There are 164 panchayats of this kind and in the case of all but one of them this step was resorted to once, and in the remaining case twice. The services of District Panchayat Officers are now being utilized to prevent a recurrence of such failures. No further action is called for on the part of the Government.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari :—"May I know whether it is a fact that the District Panchayat Officers are the persons who conduct elections for the village panchayats?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—"Generally the District Panchayat Officers are themselves directed to conduct the elections. In certain cases for the sake of administrative convenience, special officers are appointed as election officers."

Famine Relief

Prevalence of acute famine conditions in certain parts of the Rayachoti taluk, Cuddapah district.

* 291 *Q.*—Mr. T. Narasa Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that acute famine conditions are prevailing in Galivedu revenue firka of Rayachoti taluk, Cuddapah district;

(b) whether the Government have received a report from the local officers that a woman in Galivedu firka attempted to commit suicide not being able to maintain her children on account of the acute famine conditions prevailing in that firka of Rayachoti taluk, Cuddapah district; and

(c) whether any member of the Board of Revenue toured in Cuddapah district to investigate to what extent the famine has affected the various firkas of Cuddapah district?

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[a] Printed as Appendix VII on page 226 infra.